

defiance of the law of gravitation, is a stale type of magical incantation compared with the wonders now within the limits of realised and actual science. But it is at least very questionable whether such a prelude as the present be not wasted on the "mechanical wonder," which we intended it merely to introduce. That mechanical wonder, as it is called, is just one of those thousand and one rumoured novelties in power to supersede steam which have seldom or never as yet turned out to be any thing else but smoke: In fact, one of them did actually consist in the turning of smoke itself to account, if we mistake not. In the present instance, a Mr. McCrackan, of Warwick, draper, announces, it is said, "a new mechanical propelling engine, of six to eight horse power, to supersede steam power, whether stationary, locomotive, or marine; and also to supersede horse power on common turnpike roads. It requires neither coal, air, nor any chemical compound to give the power; has neither funnel, boiler, condenser, tank, nor tender, and appears very unlike any machine hitherto invented. The expense of the engines will be less than those of steam: the cost of working will not be a twentieth part, and a much greater amount of speed may be obtained by them than by the best steam engines now in use."

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting on February 26th, Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., president, in the chair, several interesting exhibitions of antiquities were furnished, including a very fine tilting helmet, discovered near Sevenoaks, in Kent. This, in many respects, resembles the helmet of Edward the Black Prince, at Canterbury, but Mr. Planché considered it somewhat earlier. A communication was read from Mr. F. A. Carrington, containing an account of some unknown monumental figures discovered at Wanborough, Wilts; with suggestions as to identifying monumental figures when there is neither inscription, heraldic device, nor tradition. By means of the costume and reference to records, Mr. C. considered that the effigies are those of Emeline Longespée, and Maurice Fitzmaurice, her husband, who lived in the reign of Edward I.—Mr. H. S. Cuming read a paper on the pestle and mortar, giving not only the ancient history of these universally used implements, but describing the various forms in which they appear at the present day in different parts of the world.

The president informed the meeting that the council had made arrangements for the members to dine together at the Freemasons' Tavern, after the annual meeting on March 12.

Books.

▲ *Supplement to Godson's Practical Treatise on the Law of Patents for Inventions, and of Copyright in Literature, the Drama, Music, Engraving, and Sculpture; and also in Ornamental and Useful Designs, for the purposes of Sale and Exhibition.* By PETER BURKE, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. Benning and Co. 1851.

MR. GODSON'S treatise on the law of patents and copyright has been for years a standard book of authority with regard to those important subjects. Unfortunately, just as the patent and copyright law was about to become of more moment than ever, the author died somewhat prematurely. He had, at the time, attained a high position in his profession, and, no doubt, subsequent editions of his work would have derived further benefit from his extended knowledge and experience. Although but a short time has elapsed since the last edition of Mr. Godson's treatise, so much change has occurred in the law of patents, and especially of copyright, that the book, unless modernised, would be actually valueless at this very period when the approaching great exhibition renders patents and copyrights all-important. Mr. Peter Burke has, therefore, made this supplement, which fully restores, and, indeed, enhances the utility of the original production. That portion of his

labour which was devoted to copyright, Mr. Burke thus speaks of in his preface:—

"With the latter half of the supplement, containing the law of copyright, it became necessary that more should be done, in consequence of the many changes recently occurring in that branch of our jurisprudence. The editor, has, therefore, entirely reviewed and remodelled the matter touching on copyright, so that this supplement, in effect, embraces the whole law on the subject, new or altered, as it now is, whether in regard to literature, music, the drama, engraving, or sculpture, or to designs, useful and ornamental, for the purposes of sale or exhibition. These extensive changes, it cannot but be observed, have happened in every instance for the better. Rich and abundant fruits have already come of the efforts of those salutary spirits of Parliament, the Broughams, the Telfords, the Bulwers, and others—distinguished actors themselves on the great stage of knowledge—who have thus reformed the copyright law. Nor will the good they have done stop here. The country has yet to experience the incalculable benefits likely to arise from the fair protection of its industry and intelligence, from the due fostering of its genius, and the liberal encouragement of its letters, its music, and its arts. For the perfection of such a system, little now seems wanted, as far as copyright is concerned; and it is only to be hoped that in a short time the law of patents may have to boast of a reformation equally prosperous and beneficial."

Mr. Burke enters very fully into the law of literary and dramatic copyright. When writing on the former, he is particular in explaining what abridgments may be made without incurring the danger of piracy. In referring to the drama, he raises a curious question as to whether a dramatic author has or has not perpetual and exclusive property in the representation of a play which has not been printed and published. The fine arts, and especially the copyright of useful and ornamental designs, form a prominent feature in this supplement, and necessarily so, since the subject comes home, in 1851, to sculptors, artists, designers, engravers, and indeed to every one. Mr. Burke has adopted a very plain style of writing in this supplement, evading, as much as possible, the technical verbiage of the law, so that any person will be able to easily read and comprehend the book.

On the Dwellings of the Poor, and the Means of Improving them. By MONTAGUE GORE. Second Edition. Ridgway, Piccadilly. 1851.

THE subject of the present little pamphlet cannot be too often urged on the attention of all who have influence, of any kind whatever, that may tend to remedy so immense an evil as the miserable state of dwellings inhabited by the poor, especially in towns, and, above all, in this town of towns, the metropolis,—scenes in which, of the most shocking description, are here faithfully exposed. The author, amongst other suggestions, urges the opportunity, which has already been adverted to in our columns, for erecting new dwellings for the poor, which now exist in the vicinity of Farringdon-street, towards Clerkenwell. The project for building workmen's cottages along the lines of railway centering in the metropolis, has never come to any thing yet. Mr. Gore does not fail to recal attention to this, as one of many schemes that might do good, though certainly not to those most essentially and immediately in want of improved dwellings, who are the very poorest of all, and totally unable to benefit directly by such a scheme. Indirectly, however, the state of even these might thus be much improved.

Radiments of Chemistry; with Illustrations of the Chemistry of Daily Life. By D. B. REID, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c., &c. Fourth Edition. Ballière, Regent-street. 1851.

THE object of this little work is to facilitate the introduction of a course of chemistry as an elementary branch of education in all schools and academies, and thus to lay a foundation for the young pupil's future progress in science, and in the more important of its practical applications in the economy of daily life and the useful arts, by awakening his mind to the nature of the material world in which he is placed. To this end we have no hesitation in recommending this treatise as one exceedingly

well adapted to the purpose. The author has clearly kept that special purpose in view throughout in his judicious collation of facts, and illustration of affinities and principles.

We have occasion to know, what the author also states, that in schools where trials have hitherto been made of elementary and simple courses of chemistry, the pupils have evinced the utmost interest and curiosity in the prescribed experiments. Such courses, too, have become especially necessary, as the author remarks,—

"For young persons intended for professions where a knowledge of physical science is necessary, as from the great progress now made in all its branches, without some previous training in elementary schools, it would be as impossible to expect the medical man, the engineer, the architect, the manufacturer, and all who are professionally interested in science, to obtain that amount of information from the usual course of education which is now required, as it would be for any one to maintain a proper rank as a scholar or a mathematician, were he never to enter upon the study of classics or mathematics till he should join a university."

First Report of the Committee of the Macclesfield Public Baths and Washhouses. 1851.

THIS report is prefaced by some observations of the Rev. E. Weigall on the necessity and advantages of such establishments, which well merit an extensive circulation in other towns besides Macclesfield. The baths and wash-houses there are already more than self-supporting, as a surplus of 64l. odds appears in the current year. The number of bathers during the year was 38,522. Of this number 21,748 were those who bathed for 1d. The number of washers during the same period was 2,707. Of these 2,237 were cottagers and lodgers. Upwards of 500 persons have already learned to swim—a benefit itself of no little importance.

Miscellanea.

PRINTING PRESS PAPER-FOLDERS.—A Mr. E. N. Smith, of Springfield, Mass., is said to have perfected a newspaper and book-folding machine, now in successful operation under the management of an Association at Boston, U.S., called "The American Paper-folding Company." The machine consists of the combination of a number of wooden rollers and metallic cones, so arranged, that by means of tape guides the printed sheets are made to pass in different directions between the rollers, each change of direction giving a fold to the sheet, until at last the sheet is discharged, evenly folded in the form desired, and neatly pressed. The sheets fall from the machine into a proper receptacle, where they form an even pile. One of these machines is in operation on the Boston Transcript's steam press, and another is at work in New York. The amount of work that such machines will ultimately have to do in the States alone may be estimated by the alleged fact, that in the various newspaper and book-binding establishments there, no less than 500,000 persons are employed in folding alone.

PRINTING PRESS POWER AT BOSTON, U.S.—Through a 2-inch lead pipe a stream of water is introduced into a meter 24 inches square. The fall of water between the Boston reservoir and this meter is about 100 feet. This 2-inch stream discharges eighty gallons of water each minute, and in passing through the meter gives a three-horse power, more than sufficient for driving the press. It is less hazardous than a steam-engine, requires no attention, and is always in readiness. A daily paper is printed by help of this simple power.

POSTING NAMES OF STREETS.—A gentleman from the Whitefriars Glass Works, says the *Sheffield Independent*, has an improved mode of representing names of streets on public lamp-posts, so that the locality should be known by night as well as by day. The system is patented, and consists simply in impressing, by a peculiar process, the name of each street upon glass while in a state of softness.